

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 8450

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (CHRISTOPHER, WARREN), PEPR, US, GR
SUBJECT: DEPUTY SECRETARY'S VISIT -- SUGGESTED ARRIVAL STATEMENT

REF: (A) STATE 239653 (NOTAL), (B) STATE 240062 (NOTAL)

1. WE SHARE DEPARTMENT'S ASSESSMENT OF IMPORTANCE OF DEPUTY SECRETARY'S ARRIVAL STATEMENT. AND WE TOO ARE CONCERNED THAT WHEN EXAGGERATED GREEK EXPECTATIONS IN SECURITY AND POLITICAL AREA ARE NOT MET THIS COULD PRODUCE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE REACTIONS HERE.

2. HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE THESE EXPECTATIONS SHOULD BE TRIMMED ELSEWHERE THAN IN DEPUTY SECRETARY'S ARRIVAL STATEMENT, WHERE WE WOULD RUN RISK OF UNNECESSARILY CASTING PALL OVER ENTIRE VISIT NO MATTER HOW CAREFULLY DRAFTED OUR WORDS OF CAUTION. FOR SAME REASON, WE BELIEVE IT BETTER FOR DEPUTY SECRETARY NOT TO RESPOND TO SUBSTANTIVE QUESTIONS BY JOURNALISTS WHO COVER HIS ARRIVAL. IN OUR PRIVATE TALKS BEFORE AND DURING THE VISIT WE CAN WHITTLE GREEK EXPECTATIONS DOWN TO REALITY IN LESS DAMAGING WAY. AT END OF VISIT IN PRESS CONFERENCE DEPARTURE STATEMENT, OR IN JOINT STATEMENT
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ON CONCLUSION OF TALKS, WE CAN AGAIN PUT ON RECORD THE KINDS OF STATEMENTS WE HAVE ALREADY MADE PUBLICLY, POSSIBLY DRESSED UP IN SOME NEW LANGUAGE. IN THIS WAY WHAT WILL BE ESSENTIALLY A REITERATION CAN BE PORTRAYED AS AN OUTCOME OF XP TALKS. AND WE CAN COUNT ON GOG TO ENCOURAGE MEDIA TO CAST OUR STATEMENTS IN

THAT WAY.

3. FOLLOWING DRAFT ARRIVAL STATEMENT IS INDICATION OF TONE AND KINDS OF THINGS WE THINK IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR DEPUTY SECRETARY TO SAY.

4. BEGIN DRAFT TEXT: IT IS GOOD TO BE IN ATHENS AND IT IS A PRIVILEGE TO CONVEY TO PRESIDENT TSATSOS, PRIME MINISTER KARAMANLIS AND THE GREEK PEOPLE THE WARMEST GREETINGS OF PRESIDENT CARTER AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. I COME HERE AT THE REQUEST OF THE PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE TO DISCUSS WITH YOUR LEADERS HOW OUR TWO NATIONS CAN STRENGTHEN AND DEEPEN OUR RELATIONSHIP IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE OUR COMMON OBJECTIVES BILATERALLY AND IN THE REGION. OUR COMMITMENTS AS WE ENTER THESE TALKS ARE CLEAR:

- THE UNITED STATES IS COMMITTED TO A SECURE, DEMOCRATIC, AND PROSPEROUS GREECE, AND TO THE PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF DISPUTES INVOLVING IT. WE KNOW THIS IS THE BEDROCK OF OUR ALLIANCE.
- THE UNITED STATES IS ALSO COMMITTED TO WORKING WITH GREECE AS OUR TWO NATIONS SEEK TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF OUR CITIZENS. THE ENVIRONMENT, TECHNOLOGY, PUBLIC HEALTH, EDUCATION ARE AREAS OF CHALLENGE FOR DEMOCRACIES EVERYWHERE AND WE CAN USEFULLY SHARE OUR EXPERIENCE AND

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KNOWLEDGE.

GREECE AND THE UNITED STATES ARE NOT SIMPLY CLOSE ALLIES. WE ARE ALSO PARTNERS IN DEMOCRACY, MUTUALLY COMMITTED TO MAKING THAT DEMOCRACY STRONG AND SUCCESSFUL.

IT IS IN THIS SPIRIT THAT PRESIDENT CARTER HAS ASKED ME TO COME TO GREECE AND TO CARRY OUT MY TALKS WITH YOUR LEADERS. END DRAFT TEXT.

MCCLOSKEY

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